

Message Text

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71

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TAGS: PFOR PINT UR

SUBJ: BREZHNEV'S TASHKENT SPEECH: DOMESTIC ASPECTS

1. IN TASHKENT SPEECH PRESENTING ORDER OF FRIENDSHIP OF PEOPLES TO UZBEKISTAN, CARRIED LIVE BY NATIONAL TELEVISION SEPTEMBER 24, BREZHNEV PROJECTED IMAGE OF CONFIDENT LEADER GIVING EX CATHEDRA PRONOUNCEMENTS IN FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE. PARTY FIRST SECRETARIES FROM ALL CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS AND AZERBAIJAN WERE ON PODIUM, AND DURING RHYTHMIC CLAPPING BEFORE SPEECH, BREZHNEV JOINED HANDS WITH THEM AND DANCED AROUND BRIEFLY. SPEECH WAS DELIVERED IN "NEW" (I.E., POST-US TRIP) BREZHNEV STYLE, WITH SOME ARM-FLAILING, EMOTIONAL EXHORTATIONS, AND EVEN ONE LIGHT-HEARTED DEPARTURE FROM TEXT. AUDIENCE REACTION APPEARED TO BE ENTHUSIASTIC.

2. THIS IS FOURTH SUCH AWARD MADE BY BREZHNEV (AFTER UKRAINE, RSFSR, AND KAZAKHSTAN PRESENTATIONS), AND IT IS CLEAR HE IS USING THEM AS VEHICLE TO CEMENT HIS OWN IMAGE AS THE COUNTRY'S PRINCIPAL LEADER, TO GIVE PATS ON THE BACK TO KEY ECONOMIC AND PARTY FIGURES, AND TO CONVEY FOREIGN POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS TO A NATIONAL

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AUDIENCE.

3. IN DOMESTIC PORTION OF TASHKENT SPEECH BREZHNEV HEAPED EXPECTED PRAISE ON COTTON-GROWING REPUBLICS, ESPECIALLY UZBEKISTAN, AND THEIR LEADERS FOR THE ANTICIPATED RECORD COTTON HARVEST, WITH ONLY AZERBAIJAN COMING IN FOR SLIGHT CRITICISM IN REFERENCE TO FORMER LEADERS WHO HAD "NOT LONG AGO CREATED ANTI-COTTON ATTITUDES". BREZHNEV MENTIONED NEED NOT TO DWELL ON PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BUT TO REMOVE OBSTACLES TO FUTURE PROGRESS. HE MENTIONED SOME PROBLEMS REGARDING AREA'S LABOR FORCE (TRADITIONAL PROBLEMS IN THE AREA) AND EXHORTED LEADERS TO TAKE "DECISIVE MEASURES" AGAINST THOSE WHO VIOLATE LABOR DISCIPLINE.

4. IN REFERENCE TO AREA NATIONALISM, BREZHNEV EMPHASIZED BENEFITS OF COMMUNISM TO CENTRAL ASIANS CITING "HISTORIC LEAP" MADE AFTER THE REVOLUTION. HE ASSERTED THAT OLD CULTURES HAD BEEN ENRICHED BY "SOCIALIST IDEAS AND ASPIRATIONS," AND POINTEDLY REMINDED HIS AUDIENCE OF THE "ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION" MADE BY THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE TO THE AREA'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

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